CATALOGUES OF ART EXHIBITIONS ORGANIZED BY THE ARTS COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN REPUBLISHED ON MICROFICHE

Published on microfiche by:

Chadwyck-Healey Ltd
45 South Street
Bishops Stortford
Herts CM23 3AG
England

Somerset House
417 Maitland Avenue
Teaneck
New Jersey 07666
USA

Date of publication and production of master: 1975

Series: The purpose of this series is to make available those catalogues that have lasting interest through their text or their illustrations. Catalogues and cumulations of titles in the series are available from the publishers

Serial numbers: Each title is given a seven-figure serial number in the top right hand corner of the microfiche title strip. This is an accession number. The first figure indicates the number of the list in which the title first appears; the first three-figure group signifies the gallery or museum; the second three-figure group the accession number for that title.

Copyright, microfiche edition: Arts Council of Great Britain and Chadwyck-Healey Ltd, 1975

Technical data:

Producing laboratory: Micromedia Ltd, Kidlington, Oxford.

S
1947

BEN SHAHN

THE ARTS COUNCIL

of Great Britain

1947

BEN SHAHN is one of the most distinguished of contemporary American painters. He arrived in the United States from his native town of Kovno in 1906 and earned his living as a lithographer until 1930. During these years he travelled abroad, staying in Paris some of the time. In 1933 he became assistant to Rivera, the Mexican mural painter, and was also enrolled in the Federal Government's Public Works of Art Project. In 1938 he began, with his wife, a series of thirteen frescoes for a large post office in New York. His first major exhibition of easel pictures was held in 1940 and this is the first exhibition of his works in this country.

Shahn has always felt the need for some kind of communal activity in addition to his painting and at various times has worked as a labourer or clerk as well as being a painter. This makes his paintings of the American scene particularly convincing but they never become propaganda or mere comment. He combines tender grace with powerful satire and achieves great emotional intensity by the scale of his figures in relation to the size of the canvas.

The Arts Council is much indebted to Mr. Alfred Barr and Mr. Monroe Wheeler, of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; also to the owners of these pictures for permission to show them in this country. They are most grateful to Penguin Books, who brought the pictures from America in order to reproduce them in a monograph in their series of Modern Painters. This will include these sixteen paintings as colour plates, as well as an introduction by Mr. James Thrall Soby from which the above information has been obtained. Mr. F. H. Mayor has kindly put his gallery at the Council's disposal for the London showing of this exhibition.

1. THE BLIND ACCORDION PLAYER 1945
25½ by 38¼ inches; tempera
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Roy R. Neuberger

2. BARTOLOMEO VANZETTI AND NICOLA SACCO
From the Sacco-Vanzetti series 1931-32
10½ by 14¼ inches; gouache
Lent by the Museum of Modern Art, New York, Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

3. TWO WITNESSES, MELLIE EDEAU AND SADIE EDEAU
From the Mooney series 1932
12 by 16 inches; gouache
Lent by the Museum of Modern Art, New York

4. W.C.T.U. PARADE
From the Prohibition series 1933-34
16 by 31½ inches; gouache
Lent by the Public Works of Art Project, courtesy Museum of the City of New York

5. SCOTT'S RUN, WEST VIRGINIA 1937
22½ by 28 inches; gouache
Lent by the Whitney Museum of American Art

6. WILLIS AVENUE BRIDGE 1940
22¼ by 30½ inches; tempera
Lent by Lincoln Kirstein

7. 'PRETTY GIRL MILKING THE COW' 1940
22 by 30 inches; tempera
Private Collection

8. HANDBALL 1939
22¾ by 31¼ inches; tempera
Lent by the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Purchase Fund

9. PETER AND THE WOLF 1943
6 by 9½ inches; tempera
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Louchheim

10. GIRL JUMPING ROPE 1943
19¾ by 27½ inches; tempera
Lent by Richard Loeb

11. PORTRAIT OF MYSELF WHEN YOUNG 1943
19¾ by 27½ inches; tempera
Lent by Miss Celia Hubbard

12. THE RED STAIRWAY 1944
16 by 23½ inches; tempera
Lent by the City Art Museum of St. Louis

13. THE WELDERS 1944
22 by 39¾ inches; tempera
Lent by the Museum of Modern Art, New York

14. CHERUBS AND CHILDREN 1944
15½ by 23½ inches; tempera
Lent by the Whitney Museum of American Art

15. LIBERATION 1945
30 by 39½ inches; tempera
Private Collection

16. DEATH ON THE BEACH 1945
10 by 14 inches; tempera
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Berkowitz

SHENVAL PRESS